

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-23 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 11-14 stand rejected. Claims 4-7 and 10 are objected to. Claims 15-23 are allowed. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 15-23.

Claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oakley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,476,107). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

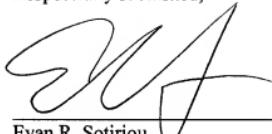
Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the indicated allowable subject matter in claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable. Applicant has also amended claim 6 and rewritten this claim in independent form including all of the recitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 6 is likewise allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-14 depend from independent claim 1, which is submitted to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-14 are allowable based at least on the dependency of these claims from claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed invention and the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

PATENT
147261 (SPLG 1096)

Respectfully submitted,



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